



AAU Summary of the FY17 Omnibus

May 5, 2017

Overview:

On May 1, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees released the FY17 omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 244), which funds the federal government through the current fiscal year, ending September 30, 2017. On May 5, President Trump signed the package, which includes a much-needed boost to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other science, innovation, and student aid programs. AAU's statement on the omnibus can be found [here](#).

AAU is a member of the [Task Force on American Innovation](#), [United for Medical Research](#), and the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research](#), all of which issued statements.

This document summarizes the FY17 funding for federal agencies and programs of interest to research universities. The FY17 AAU Funding Priorities table can be found [here](#).

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): The omnibus provides \$375 million for AFRI, a \$25 million, or 7.1 percent, increase above the FY16 funding level.

Department of Defense (DOD): The omnibus provides \$516.1 billion in base Defense funding and \$61.8 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The measure includes \$2.28 billion for basic research, a \$33 million, or 1.4 percent, reduction from FY16. The majority of the cuts to 6.1 target the Navy account. The bill would provide funding for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) at \$2.94 billion, an increase of \$48 million or 1.7% over FY16. The omnibus also includes a \$50 million rescission listed as *DARPA undistributed reduction*.

Department of Education (ED): The omnibus funds the Pell Grant program at \$22.475 billion and maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum award at \$4,860 for the 2017-18 school year. The mandatory portion of the maximum award raises the award by \$105 to \$5,920.¹

In addition, the language restores year-round Pell Grant awards, which is estimated to provide approximately one million students an additional \$1,650. The bill would rescind \$1.3 billion from

¹ While the original FY17 bill pegged the maximum award at \$5,935, last year's CBO projections showed inflation was lower than predicted, so the Pell increase is slightly smaller.

the Pell surplus, allotting a carryover of \$6.2 billion for FY18. This reflects the adoption of the Senate's proposal (surplus rescission) rather than the House's proposal to cut discretionary funding.

Other ED programs:

- Federal Work Study (FWS) would be funded at \$990 million, the same level as FY16;
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) would be funded at \$733 million, the same level as FY16;
- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) would be funded at \$28 million, reflecting a \$1 million or 3.4 percent cut from FY16;
- Institute of Education Sciences (IES) would be funded at \$605 million, a \$13 million, or 2.1 percent decrease from FY16; and
- International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Title VI) would be funded at \$72 million, the same level as FY16.

Department of Energy (DOE): The omnibus provides \$5.39 billion for the DOE Office of Science, an increase of \$42 million, or less than one percent, above FY16. The measure also funds the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) at \$306 million, a \$15 million, or 5.2 percent, increase above FY16.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): The omnibus provides \$19.65 billion for NASA, a \$368 million increase above FY16. This figure includes \$5.76 billion for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, a 3.15 percent, or \$175 million, increase over FY16. Earth Science would receive \$1.921 billion, Astrophysics \$750 million, the James Webb Space Telescope \$569.4 million, and Heliophysics \$678.5 million. The omnibus provides a modest increase of \$20 million for the Aeronautics Mission Directorate for a total of \$660 million. The Space Technology Mission Directorate is level-funded at \$686.5 million. The omnibus also includes \$40 million for the Space Grant Fellowship Program.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): The omnibus provides \$150 million for NEH, a \$2 million, or 1.4 percent, increase above the FY16 funding level.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): The omnibus provides funding for NIH at \$34.1 billion, an increase of \$2 billion, or 6.2 percent, above the FY16 level. This figure includes \$352 million provided by the 21st Century Cures Act.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The omnibus provides \$7.47 billion for NSF, a modest increase of \$8.7 million for the agency. The Research and Related Activities Directorate and the Education and Human Resources Directorate are level-funded at \$6.03 billion and \$880 million, respectively. The omnibus also includes \$209 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, which is a \$9 million increase over FY16.